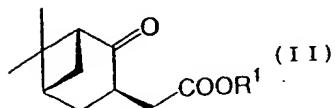
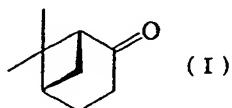


Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound (II):



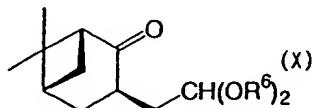
wherein R¹ is alkyl, which comprises reacting a compound (I):



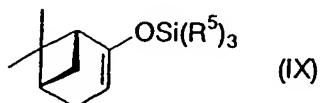
with XCH₂COOR¹ wherein X is halogen, and R¹ is as defined above in the presence of an additive selected from the group consisting of N,N'-dimethylpropyleneurea and 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone and a base.

Claims 2-7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (X):

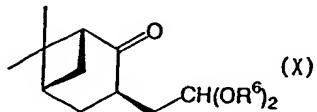


wherein R⁶ each is independently alkyl, which comprises reacting a compound (IX):

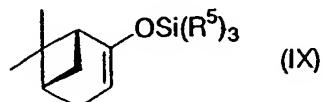


wherein R⁵ each is independently alkyl, with CH₂=CHOR⁶ wherein R⁶ is as defined above in the presence of ceric ammonium nitrate (IV) in a solvate of R⁶OH wherein R⁶ is as defined above.

Claim 9. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (X):



wherein R⁶ is as defined above, which comprises preparing a compound (IX):



wherein R⁵ is as defined above through the process according to claim 7, and reacting the compound (IX) with CH₂=CHOR⁶ wherein R⁶ is as defined above in the presence of ceric ammonium nitrate (IV) in a solvent of R⁶OH wherein R⁶ is as defined above.

Claims 10-15. (Cancelled)